

REMARKS

General:

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 6-8, and 11-14 were rejected. Claims 2-5, 9, and 10 were objected to.

Claims 1 and 6-7 are canceled in this amendment. Claims 2, 4, 9, and 10 are rewritten in independent form. Claims 8 and 11-14 are amended to be dependent from claim 2 instead of from canceled claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 8-14 remain pending in the application after entry of the present amendment.

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Amendment after final rejection:

Entry of the present amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the amendment puts the application in better form for subsequent proceedings, without raising any new issues requiring further consideration. In particular:

The cancellation of claims 1 and 6-7 is specifically permitted by 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1).

Claims 2, 4, 9, and 10 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 8 and 11-14 have been amended to now depend from allowable claim 2 (instead of claim 1.) As such, this change does not raise any new issues and results in these claims, likewise, being allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 6-8, and 11-14 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,715,386 (Maier).

Claims 1, 6, and 7 are canceled, and the rejection of those claims is therefore moot.

Claims 8 and 11-14 have been made dependent from claim 2, which was not rejected. Without prejudice to their individual merits, claims 8 and 11-14 are believed now to be allowable as claims dependent from an allowable base claim.

Allowable subject matter:

Claims 2-5, 9, and 10 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 2, 4, 9, and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, and are deemed now to be allowable.

Claim 3 (which is dependent from claim 2) and claim 5 (which is dependent from claim 4) are no longer dependent from a rejected base claim, and are deemed to be allowable.

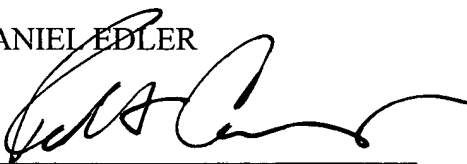
Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's objections and rejections, and allowance of all of claims 2-5 and 8-14, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL EDLER

By:



ROBERT E. CANNUSCIO
Reg. No. 36,469
Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP
One Logan Square
18th and Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 988-3303
(215) 988-2757 (fax)